



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely summer break. It was so nice to see all of the children's smiling faces on Thursday morning. They have all returned refreshed, full of enthusiasm and ready to make super progress this year. We have a very busy term ahead of us and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some key information.

Homework

Your continued support with your child's learning makes such a big difference to the progress they make. Our homework expectations in Year 2 are 15 minutes of reading (either reading a book or using an online program) each school night, with 1 spelling task and 3 Mathletics tasks each week (checked on a Thursday after 6pm). These tasks should not take a lot of time and your child should find them fun to do!

Reading- Please remember to send your child to school with their book bag each day. Their home school learning journal and reading book are checked daily. Daily home reading makes a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all areas of the curriculum. Across the top of each page of your child's home learning journal are the reading strategies we will teach your child to use if they come across an unknown word - ask your child about Tommy Tracker and Chunky Monkey. Instead of writing comments such as 'well read' or 'finished book', we would like you to choose a strategy and make your comment about that e.g. 'Bobby used Tommy Tracker to point to the words as he read' or, 'Sally came across the long word 'football' so she used Chunky Monkey to break it into two small words and read it easily'. Ask your child to explain the different strategies to you. I always enjoy reading the positive comments you write in their reading records. As a class, we will be reading *The Enchanted Wood*, *The Magic Faraway Tree* and *Aesop's Fables*.

Handwriting- Using consistent, neat handwriting is extremely important. The expectation is that your child will be using joined up handwriting by the end of Year 2. Your child will have a daily handwriting session, initially focussing on correct seating position, pencil grip (froggy fingers) and formation of letters before moving on to joining up their handwriting. A copy of our letter formations and joins can be found on our school website.

Writing- We have started the term by revisiting the key writing skills of saying a sentence that makes sense, recording their sentence using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop and reading their sentence out loud and checking for errors. We will look at sentence types and how we use question marks and exclamation marks. We will be using 'and' to make our sentences longer and more detailed. As the term progresses, we will be writing our own versions of stories we are reading (*Little Red Riding Hood*, *Traction Man* and *Aesop's Fables*), experimenting with different joining words (and, but because, when),

adjectives and verbs. We will be encouraging the children to draw upon their reading experiences and widen their vocabulary use. We will write for different purposes including letters, diary entries, recounts and instructions.

Spelling- In Year 2, we have 56 common exception words that your child needs to learn to read and spell, these are in your Learning Journal. Use your Purple Mash 2do folder to find and practise your weekly spellings. **The weekly spelling test in class will be on Friday.**

Maths - A sound grasp of counting (forwards and backwards to 100 from any number, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s), number recognition (reading all numbers to 100, recognising odd and even numbers), basic number facts (1 more, 1 less, doubling and halving numbers to 10) is essential as the children begin the Year 2 curriculum and cannot be underestimated. Any help that can give your child with these skills would be greatly appreciated. As the term progresses, we will be learning to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will use White Rose Maths resources to embed problem solving opportunities into our daily maths lesson. **To complement their work in school, your child has access to the Numbots program and they will be assigned three Mathletics tasks each week, to complete at home.**

Science - We will be learning about 'the basic needs of animals in order to stay alive' and 'humans and the importance of diet and exercise'. To support our work in class, we will be having a very special visit from the Royal Institution of Science (15.9.21) when we will be learning about 'Explosive Food' (further information to follow).

PHSE - We will learn about relationships including families and friendships, safe relationships and respecting ourselves and others.

R.E - We will be learning about what Christians believe God is like and why Christmas matters. Hopefully, we will get to visit a local church and take part in the 'Christmas Journey' workshop. This is a magical experience that only Year 2 children are invited to take part in and is an excellent start to our preparations for Christmas.

History - we will explore Bonfire Night and the Great Fire of London.

Geography - we will learn about our wonderful world and the seven wonders of the world.

Art – Drawing, sketching and shading – Images linked to Guy Fawkes and from the Great Fire of London.

P.E. will be on Wednesday and Thursday. Children need a PE kit of shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls. Thank you to all the parents who have named their child's kit. Please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety reasons. Your child's kit will stay in school until half term and then be sent home.



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I am confident that we will have a very successful year, working together, to ensure your child achieves their full potential. We are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' session on **Tuesday 7th September** (3:20 - 4pm) if you would like to drop in and say hello or have a look around your child's new classroom. However, if at any time throughout the year you have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Mr Goldsbrough.



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